

Remarks

Claims 24-30, 60-68 and 70-80 are pending in this application, with claims 24, 30, 61, 62, 68, 75, 79 and 80 being the independent claims. Claims 24, 27, 28, 30, 60, 62- 64, 66-68, 71, 72 and 75-80 are amended.

In the Office Action dated December 5, 2003, all the claims of this application stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Cragg, U.S. Patent No. 5,665,115.

Interview with the Examiner at the USPTO of March 2, 2004

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the in-person interview of March 2, 2004. The Cragg reference was discussed during the interview. It was agreed that the amendments, as proposed above, will distinguish over Cragg.

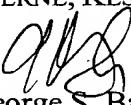
Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Conclusion

Should the Examiner have any questions with regard to this Reply, or determine that any further action is necessary to place this Application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' representative at (202) 371-2600.

Respectfully submitted,

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